

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/TA:RAMEYER:MEH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EUR:AHARTMAN

EB:HLKATZ

S/S - MR. WOODS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 173290

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: KISSINGER-SOAMES LETTER ON OILSEEDS TAX

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6708

1. AMBASSADOR HINTON REQUESTED TO DELIVER TO SOAMES AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM SECRETARY
KISSINGER ON THE PROPOSED OILSEEDS TAX:

BEGIN TEXT:

JULY 9, 1976

DEAR CHRISTOPHER:

I AM VERY CONCERNED AS A RESULT OF LEARNING TODAY THAT A
CONSUMPTION TAX ON VEGETABLE OILS HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN
THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE DAIRY
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SECTOR. THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF ACTION WE DISCUSSED

IN OUR MEETING OVER BREAKFAST IN PARIS AT THE LAST OECD MINISTERIAL. THE TAX WOULD AFFECT TRADE IN A MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR OF OUR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE EC. ITS ADOPTION WOULD CERTAINLY RESULT IN INTENSE PRESSURE ON THIS GOVERNMENT TO RETALIATE IN SOME WAY.

IF AN OPEN CONFRONTATION WERE TO RESULT, THERE WOULD BE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE PROSPECT FOR PROGRESS IN THE MTN AND OTHER MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC FORUMS WOULD BE DIMMED.

WE HAVE BEEN MANAGING FAIRLY WELL TO KEEP DIVISIVE TRADE PROBLEMS UNDER CONTROL. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE MAINTAIN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP IF WE ARE TO EXERCISE THE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE OUR SHARED OBJECTIVES. THE EROSION OF CONFIDENCE AND HARMFUL FRICTION WHICH WOULD ARISE BETWEEN US AS A RESULT OF THIS MEASURE COULD ONLY UNDERMINE THESE BROADER GOALS.

I THEREFORE URGE YOU TO DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PREVENT THE ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THIS PROPOSED TAX ON VEGETABLE OILS OR OF ANY OTHER MEASURE HAVING A SIMILAR EFFECT.

WARM REGARDS,

HENRY.

END TEXT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CUSTOMS DUTIES, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, VEGETABLE OILS, AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES, SOYBEANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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